

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
PUBLIC SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2010
7:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Gatling called the meeting to order at 7:10p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Councilmember Latasha Gatling, Mayor Eugene Grant (ABSENT), Councilmember Darrell Hardy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, (EXCUSED), Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator, Dashaun Lanham, City Clerk, Samuel Prue, Chief of Police (ARRIVED AT 7:23p.m.), Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was given by Councilman Porter

1.1.4. Approval of Agenda

- It was motioned by Councilmember Hardy and seconded by Councilmember Porter to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

1.1.5 Reading/Approval of Meeting Minutes for the month of January

- It was recommended by Councilmember Simms to postpone the reading of the January meeting minutes. The motion carried.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

- None

3. LEGISLATION:

- Ordinance 10-04 FY2009-2010 Budget Amendment, introduced on Monday, February 1, 2010 the first reading was declared. It was motioned by Councilmember Simms and seconded by Councilmember Hardy
FOR: Gatling, Hardy, Porter, Raynor, Simms and Yeargin
AGAINST: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
- Ordinance 10-05 FY2009-2010 Budget Amendment, introduced on Monday, February 22, 2010 and the first reading was declared.
- Resolution 10-15 Adoption of Records Retention and Disposal Schedule was introduced by the Councilmember Simms on Monday, February 22, 2010. It was motioned by Councilmember Hardy and seconded by Councilmember Raynor. It was motion by Councilmember Simms to adopt the Resolution with the recommendations from City Attorney. The motion carried to approve Resolution 10-15.
FOR: Gatling, Hardy, Porter, Raynor, Simms and Yeargin
AGAINST: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

4. REPORTS:

4.1 Mayor's Report- Eugene W. Grant, Mayor

- Mayor Grant was absent and did not submit a report

4.2. Council President Report-LaTasha C. Gatling, Council President

- The Council President report was read silently.

4.3. Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department Report-Dave McGill, Chief

- The Fire Department was not present and no report submitted for the month of January.

4.4 City Administrator's Report-Robert Ashton, (Acting)

- Mr. Ashton stated his report was on the table, please read silently
- **4.5. Code Enforcement-Tiara Andrews, Code Enforcement Officer-Absent written report (See Attached)**

4.6 Finance Department – Robert Ashton, City Treasurer

- Mr. Ashton stated his report was on the table, please read silently

4.7 Police Department –Samuel Prue, Chief of Police

- The Department has eight (8) officers on patrol
- The City of Seat Pleasant Police Department was awarded the Byrne Justice Assistant Grant to update the radio system
- They have requested the citizens of Ward III to be aware of the recent break in. We have passed out flyers to keep you informed.
- Fleet Maintenance-Tags were returned to MVA for inoperable vehicles. We have restored two of the previous listed inoperable vehicles to everyday patrol, one which was assigned to Chief Prue.

4.8 Public Works-Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works

- Mr. Thompson read his report regarding the graffiti on the bridge at Seat Pleasant Drive, and the illegal dumping cost to the City. He reported on the water main breaks.
- Mr. Thompson reported on the snow removal and the concerns regarding the equipment breaking down.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

5.1 Citizen Comment

Jacqui Peyton, Seat Pleasant, MD- Ms. Peyton stated that the blizzard and the snow removal process was displeasing to her. She has spoken with several people regarding the situation. She stated that she understood at the time, but it didn't hold water with her. She is appalled that we were caught with our pants down during the storm. Winter comes every year and we should have prepared in the spring time or last winter. We spend our funds for things that aren't pressing, but we need to spend the funds for the necessary equipment. She feels that in lieu of the marquee, although it is nice. She gets complaints that it is too slow or too fast. The money could have been better spent on telephone devices to program, and receive a message to relay to the residents from the City Clerk regarding the status of the storm or process of the snow removal. We have residents that are seniors, disabled and ill. If we needed to get to the hospital during the storm it would have been impossible. She feels that the money being spent on black berry cellular phones, and the residents were told they could not get the telephone numbers to make contact. The plowed snow was piled up by the sewer and it freezes and cause for

black ice. She is asking the administration to put some thought in the process for the next time. She hopes some thought go into the spending of the money and the purchase of necessary equipment.

Council President Gatling addressed the concerns of Ms. Peyton regarding the snow removal.

James Wright, Seat Pleasant, MD-Mr. Wright stated that he wanted to re-emphasized what Ms. Battle has stated. We need to have a better communication system. He commended Councilmember Raynor and Councilmember Porter regarding their responses. The Seat Pleasant Civic Association meeting will be held on March 16, 2010 at 7:00p.m.

Crystal Adams, Seat Pleasant, MD- Ms. Adams, stated that she wanted to personally thank Mr. Thompson and Councilmember Gatling for their response during the snow storm. She and her neighbors got outside and plowed their street. She works for the Department of Transportation and she understands the process. They contract with two hundred (200) vendors, and they may get one hundred twenty-five vendors to respond. She commended everyone for their efforts. The communication system isn't always feasible, and very expensive to purchase and maintain. She has a concerned about the police department; when she drives down MLK she has witnessed two police cars opposite one another just talking.

Councilman Porter thanked the citizens regarding the comments, and we received some good recommendations that we will take into consideration. We now need to address the aftermath regarding the storm. We need to be prepared for additional storms that are coming, and repairing of the streets. We are aware that we will not get any assistance from the State or the Federal government on the funds spent.

Councilman Yeargin thanked Ms. Adams for coming to the meeting and addressed the tree removal from Carrington.

Suggestion:

Ms. Battle stated that there are several residents that do not feel comfortable with contacting the Council or know who represent their Ward.

Ms. Adams stated that it would be good if the residents could get a packet of information regarding the emergencies, contact information, etc.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

7. NEW BUSINESS

- None
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8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

8.1 24th Legislative District Night, Monday, March 1, 2010, Annapolis, MD-Please call Ms. Addie to ride the van

8.2. Ward I Meeting, Thursday, February 25th, 2010, Council Chambers from 6:00-8:00p.m.

ADJOURN-It was motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by Councilmember Simms to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:28p.m.

Submitted by,

Dashaun N. Lanham
City Clerk